

THE CASE OF TENONI

BY MARVIN DANA

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At 3 o'clock in the afternoon of March 28 a woman entered the hall of the Grand hotel, New York city. She was evidently young, hardly more than a girl, with a face rather too pale, but made charming by regular features and large dark eyes.

She walked without any hesitation to the office and inquired:

"Is Senor Tenoni in?"

The clerk struck a bell and shouted, "Front!"

The end boy of the row seated on a bench started up and presented himself before the clerk with a "Yes, sir."

"Show this lady to No. 18."

"Oh, no," exclaimed the visitor, "I know where Senor Tenoni's room is. But would you be so kind as to do me a great favor?"

"With pleasure. I shall be very pleased to do anything I can for you."

"Please take this letter." With the words she laid out an envelope.

"Why, it's addressed to me!"

"Yes, it is addressed to you."

"But I did not know I knew you—that is, I didn't know you knew me," cried the astonished lady.

"No, I suppose not," answered the girl, with some embarrassment. Then she added: "But you must promise not to open it for at least half an hour. Will you give me your word?"

"Why, yes, of course," the clerk answered, with as much grace of manner as one so puzzled could command.

The mysterious visitor turned away and went slowly down the corridor.

The clerk stared after her and saw her pause and knock at No. 18. She waited a moment, apparently for an answer, then opened the door and entered.

When the door had closed behind her, he turned to a careful contemplation of the letter, which was addressed in dainty handwriting:

"John Briggs, Esq., Grand Hotel."

The envelope could properly be opened at half past 3. At a quarter past 3 the door of No. 18 opened, but it was Tenoni who appeared. He was alone and hastily left the hotel without word to any one.

"Now, that's funny," meditated the clerk. "But he'll be back soon, I suppose."

But the moments dragged on, and Tenoni did not return.

"This is a curious business," the clerk mused, and then, it being one minute of half past 3, he opened the letter. It ran as follows:

Dear Mr. Briggs—Circumstances I must not reveal have surrounded me with perils. I must see Senor Tenoni today, but he is a desperate man. If you should hear me shriek, come to my help, and if I do not come out of his room by 4 o'clock have a search made for me. I trust my life to you, for I have heard of your noble character from a mutual friend. When we next meet, all will be made clear to you. JULIA CRAMER.

Mr. Briggs turned pale as he read this extraordinary document.

In a few minutes the whole hotel was in an uproar. Repeated knockings at No. 18 gained no response. Then the door was tried and found to be locked. Ultimately the police were summoned, the door was beaten open, and a search was made. Nobody was found, nor was there any trace of the woman who, according to the evidence of eyewitnesses, clerks, bellboys and porter, had entered there at 3 o'clock, but had never come out.

The same night Tenoni was arrested, charged with having murdered his visitor.

When Tenoni was arraigned, court, jury, bar and public were much affected by the charms of the victim as set forth by the clerk, the porter and the bellboys. The most strenuous efforts on the part of the police failed to discover any other person answering to the name or description of Julia Cramer. It was hoped that Tenoni would confess and explain the singular means by which he had managed to dispose of the body. But Tenoni seemed possessed of dauntless effrontery and insisted that he had never known any person named Julia Cramer.

When the accused had been sworn, the following questions and answers were given:

"Were you in your room at the Grand hotel at the time when, as stated by the witnesses who preceded you, this person entered the hotel and asked for you?"

"I was not."

This answer caused much surprise and rather increased the general feeling of the prisoner's guilt, since a number of witnesses had testified to having seen him leave the room a few minutes later.

"Did you have any visitor in your room at the hotel on the day in question?"

"I did not."

A murmur of disapprobation arose, but ceased when the counsel passed to the clerk of the court a small parcel which had been lying on the table before him.

"I wish to offer in evidence the contents of this parcel."

The articles were passed to the judge, who examined them curiously. The counsel then asked that they should be examined by the prisoner, who, however, hardly glanced at them, but left them lying in his lap.

Counsel for the defense requested that Mr. Briggs should be recalled. Then he asked:

"You have a very clear remembrance of the appearance of this girl?"

"Sir," Mr. Briggs replied with emotion, "her form and face are forever enshrined in my heart."

"Very good," quoth the counsel.

"Now tell me, if you please, what sort of a gown she wore."

"It was a blue skirt with white stripes, and a blouse of the same sort."

"And what sort of hair did she have?"

"Very dark, almost black, and lots of it, curling all around her face."

"And her hat?"

"It was just an ordinary straw sailor with a blue and white ribbon."

"Would you know her again if you saw her?"

"Would I?" There was keen reproach in the tone of the exclamation. "I would know her in the heart of Africa!"

"You need hardly go that far to see her," retorted the counsel with a smile.

At the same moment the prisoner made a quick movement that attracted the attention of the court and caused the policeman guarding him to spring forward. But the latter stopped short, his eyes dilated with amazement, and his surprise was shared by every one whose eyes were turned on the dock.

Only Mr. Briggs had not turned his head, but now the counsel said to him:

"First look Mr. Briggs, and tell me if you see any one in the court room who resembles you or Miss Cramer."

The witness shook his head despondently, but raised his eyes. They fell full on a figure in a blue and white gown, on a sailor hat circled with a blue and white band, on a dainty face lighted by happy dark eyes that seemed to glance to the bottom of Mr. Briggs' heart. He gasped and cried:

"It's she!"

"And all the bellboys and the porter echoed his cry, 'It's she!'"

There was silence for a minute in the courtroom, all eyes fixed on the mysterious woman, who stood, lovely and smiling, in the dock. Then in a flash the woman vanished, and Tenoni stood in her place—Tenoni, who tossed to his counsel the gown and hat and wig. That learned gentleman at once addressed the court:

"I shall, with the court's permission, ask a few questions of the prisoner that will, I think, effectually clear up this mystery."

"What is your profession?"

"I am a quick change artist."

"Who wrote the note read by Mr. Briggs?"

"I did."

"Who was the person known as Julia Cramer?"

"It was I."

"What was your object in the deception?"

"I wished to play a practical joke that would set New York talking about me. I came here to get an engagement. I knew the fact that I was unknown in this country would prevent my getting a big salary, so I hit on this plan to get talked about."

"And you think you have succeeded?"

"I shall know when I am offered an engagement."

There was talk of committing Tenoni for contempt of court, but it came to nothing. Instead the whole country laughed, and all New York went to marvel at the lightning changes of this ingenious artist, whose salary was \$300 weekly.

Old and New Style Calendar.

Under what is called the old style the Julian calendar assumed the length of the solar year to be 365 1/4 days, whereas it was eleven minutes and a few seconds less. This annual error accumulated as years rolled on and began to be fully recognized about the beginning of the sixteenth century. The Gregorian calendar, or new style of writing dates, was first introduced in the year 1582, and ten days were then struck out of the calendar. Other regulations were also made—namely, that one day more should be dropped in each hundredth year which was not a fourth hundredth after 1582. In England the old style was directed to be discontinued and the new style introduced in the year 1752.

The change of style was effected in the following manner in September, 1752: Eleven days being the difference between dates written according to the two styles, old and new, the day after Wednesday, Sept. 2, 1752, was called Thursday, Sept. 14, 1752, omitting the 3d to the 13th, both inclusive. A careful reading of the article on "Calendar" in any encyclopedia will assist the reader and student to a fair comprehension of the old style and new style differences and why.

He Meant Well.

I was laid up in the cabin of a North Carolina mountaineer with a sprained ankle, and, though he would willingly have provided me with the best, the fare consisted of pones, fried squirrel and corn coffee every meal. On the fifth day I must have felt slip some sign that things were growing monotonous, for he looked over at me and said:

"Stranger, I reckoned to make a change in this yere fodder, but it didn't come about."

"Oh, the fodder is all right," I replied.

"But I don't skassy think it is, and I was gwine to make a change. Sorry to say I couldn't do it, but the dratted woodchuck got clean away!"

A Hopeless Case.

There was a brilliant reception at the house of Mrs. Amory. Among the guests was a certain Mr. Mackenzie, a man of grave and somewhat taciturn demeanor, whom several of the young ladies present had tried to engage in conversation, but without much success.

One of them spoke to the hostess about him.

"He seems to be rather uneasy and out of place at a party like this," she said.

"Yes," replied Mrs. Amory, with a bright smile, "he can't talk anything but sense."—Youth's Companion.

A Fire is Always Possible

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(Chancery A-27.)
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Between The Bloomfield Savings Institution, complainant, and Lawrence E. Blake et al., defendants. Pl. fa., for sale of mortgaged premises.

By virtue of the above stated writ of fieri facias, to me directed, I shall expose for sale by public vendue, at the court house in Newark, on Tuesday, the twenty-fourth day of May next, at two o'clock P. M., all that tract or parcel of land and premises situate, lying and being in the town of Bloomfield, Essex county, New Jersey:

Beginning in the westerly line of Glenwood avenue at a point therein distant northerly twenty-five and one-hundredths feet from the corner formed by the intersection of the said westerly line of Glenwood avenue with the northerly line of Llewellyn avenue; thence (1) southerly along the westerly line of Glenwood avenue twenty-five and one-hundredths feet to the northerly line of Llewellyn avenue; thence (2) westerly along the northerly line of said avenue one hundred feet; thence (3) northerly and parallel with the first course twenty-five feet; thence (4) easterly one hundred and forty-three hundredths feet to Glenwood avenue, west line and place of beginning. Being lot number one on a map of the People's Park.

Newark, N. J., April 18, 1904.
WILLIAM C. NICOLL, Sheriff.

Edward Oakes, solicitor.

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